

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS :

1. (Currently Amended) A set top terminal, comprising:

a storage device that is configured to continuously record a current video program;

a detection circuit that is configured to detect on-line connection of a communication event  
and to detect on-line disconnection;

a recording circuit, operably coupled to the storage device and the detection circuit, that is configured to record date and time of the on-line connection and a current channel number being viewed; and

a selection circuit, operably coupled to the detection circuit, that is configured to, when said on-line disconnection is detected, prompt for user input to allow a user to choose between continuing viewing the video program as it is currently being played at the time of said on-line disconnection and viewing the video program from the date and time recorded when the on-line connection was established.

2. (Previously Presented) The terminal of claim 1, further comprising a retrieving circuit, operably coupled to the storage device and the selection circuit, that is configured to retrieve video contents from the storage device starting from the recorded date and time selected by the user, if the user chooses to view the video program from the time the on-line connection was established.

3. (Previously Presented) The terminal of claim 2, further comprising a playing circuit, operably coupled to the retrieving circuit, that is configured to play the retrieved video contents.

4. (Previously Presented) The terminal of claim 2, wherein the selection circuit includes a prompting circuit that is configured to prompt for a user's input to select desired date and time for playing the video program; and

the retrieving circuit retrieves the video contents for a channel number associated with the selected date and time.

5. (Previously Presented) The terminal of claim 4, further comprising a playing circuit, operably coupled to the retrieving circuit, that is configured to play the retrieved video contents.

6. (Previously Presented) The terminal of claim 1, wherein the storage device stores the date, time and a current channel number being viewed in a pre-defined table format as a set of data associated with the on-line connection of the communication event, along with a sequence number for each set of data.

7. (Currently Amended) A method for tracking the time of on-line connection of a communication event in a system that continuously records a current video program in a storage device, the method comprising the steps of:

detecting whether on-line connection of a communication event is established and detecting when disconnection of said communication event is established;

upon detecting the on-line connection, recording date and time of the on-line connection and a current channel number being viewed; and

allowing, when the on-line connection is disconnected, a user to choose between continuing viewing the video program as it is currently being played at the time of disconnection and viewing the video program from the date and time recorded when the on-line connection was established.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, further comprising the step of :

if the user chooses to view the video program from the time on-line connection was established, retrieving the video contents from the storage device starting from the recorded date and time selected by the user.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, further comprising the step of playing the retrieved video contents.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, further comprising the step of:

after the recording step, prompting for a user's input to select desired date and time for playing the video program; and

wherein the video contents are retrieved for a channel number associated with the selected date and time.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, further comprising the step of playing the retrieved video contents.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, further comprising the step of storing the date, time and a current channel number being viewed in a pre-defined table format as a set of data associated with the on-line connection of the communication event, along with a sequence number to each set of data.

13. (Currently Amended) A television (TV) set, comprising:

a tuner;

a display operably coupled to the tuner; and

a recording device, operably coupled to the tuner, that includes

a storage device that is configured to continuously record a current video program,

a detection circuit that is configured to detect on-line connection of a communication event and to detect on-line disconnection,

a recording circuit, operably coupled to the storage device and the detection circuit, that is configured to record date and time of the on-line connection and a current channel number being viewed, and

a selection circuit, operably coupled to the detection circuit, that is configured to, when on-line disconnection is detected, to prompt user input to allow a user to choose between continuing viewing the video program as it is currently being played at the time of the on-line disconnection and viewing the video program from the date and time recorded when the on-line connection was established.

14. (Previously Presented) The TV set of claim 13, wherein the recording device further includes a retrieving circuit, operably coupled to the storage device and the selection circuit, that is configured to retrieve video contents from the storage device starting from the recorded date and time selected by the user, if the user chooses to view the video program from the time the on-line connection was established.

15. (Previously Presented) The TV set of claim 14, wherein the recording device further includes a playing circuit, operably coupled to the retrieving circuit, that is configured to play the retrieved video contents.

16. (Previously Presented) The TV set of claim 14, wherein the selection circuit includes a prompting circuit that is configured to prompt for a user's input to select desired date and time for playing the video program; and

the retrieving circuit retrieves the video contents for a channel number associated with the selected date and time.

17. (Previously Presented) The TV set of claim 16, wherein the terminal further includes a playing circuit, operably coupled to the retrieving circuit, that is configured to play the retrieved video contents.

18. (Previously Presented) The TV set of claim 13, wherein the storage device stores the date, time and a current channel number being viewed in a pre-defined table format as a set of data associated with the on-line connection of the communication event, along with a sequence number for each set of data.